

2015 QS World University Rankings

Summary

Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a company that specializes in providing study abroad services, released the 2015 QS World University Rankings on September 15, 2015. In total, more than 3,500 universities were evaluated and over 850 were ranked¹, including 26 Canadian universities. The University of Saskatchewan (U of S) was ranked 451-460 in the world, improving from 481-490 last year.

University of Saskatchewan was placed behind 18 Canadian universities. McGill University ranked 24 in the world, taking over University of Toronto (34) as the top ranking Canadian university, followed by University of British Columbia (50), and University of Alberta (96).

What is the ranking based on?

The QS World University Rankings is based on the weighted scores of six indicators listed in the table below:

Area	Indicator	Weight	Source
<i>Academic reputation</i>	Peer review survey divided into five subject areas including Arts and Humanities, Engineering and IT, Life Sciences and Biomedicine, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences	40%	QS Global Academic Survey
<i>Employer reputation</i>	Employers surveyed on the quality of graduates	10%	QS Employer Survey
<i>Citations per faculty</i>	Research performance factored against the size of the research body	20%	Scopus abstract and citation database
<i>Faculty per student</i>	Student to faculty ratio and intended to evaluate level of teaching quality	20%	Data provided by institutions
<i>International faculty</i>	Proportion of international faculty members	5%	Data provided by institutions
<i>International students</i>	Proportion of international student members	5%	Data provided by institutions

For more information about the QS ranking methodology, please go to <http://www.iu.qs.com/university-rankings/rankings-indicators/>

¹ The top 400 universities were ranked individually from 1st to 400th place. Universities that were ranked between 401st to 500th were placed in groups of ten (e.g. 401-410, 411-420, 421-430, and so on). The remaining universities were ranked into categories: 501-550, 551-600, 601-650, 651-700 and 701+.

Scores for the University of Saskatchewan

The following table illustrates the scores for the U of S on each of the six indicators of the QS Rankings. Overall, the U of S scored higher in five of the six indicators, which resulted in a higher overall score of 31.1 (30.2 last year).

	Academic reputation (40%)	Employer reputation (10%)	Citations/ faculty (20%)	Faculty/ student (20%)	International faculty (5%)	International students (5%)	OVERALL
U of S score	20.8 ¹ ↑	23.7 ↑	42.2 ↑	36.2 ↓	42.3 ↑	50.8 ↑	31.1 ↑
Median score for U15	54.9	67.5	62	unknown ²	85	63.2	54.6

¹ The QS rankings uses z-scores to normalize the results. That is, indicator scores are calculated based on the distance between each value from the mean average of the entire dataset. Theoretically, a U of S score of 20.8 in academic reputation means that 20.8% of the universities who participated in the QS rankings are ranked below the U of S; or in other words, 79.2% of the universities scored higher.

² QS only published the scores of institutions that were in the top 400 in each indicator. With only six U15 universities being in this range, the median could not be calculated.

Rankings by faculty areas

In addition to the overall rankings, the QS rankings also published the top 400 universities in five faculty areas: arts and humanities, engineering and technology, life sciences and medicine, natural sciences, and social sciences and management. These rankings are compiled based on similar methodology with the overall rankings, although higher weights are placed on academic reputation and employer reputation with the exception of life sciences and medicine.

The only faculty area that the U of S was in the top 400 was life sciences and medicine (338). Last year, the U of S was placed 380 in this faculty area.

For more information, visit

www.usask.ca/ipa